**Rail booking through Internet**

3247. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have started booking through internet;

(b) if so, in which regions this facility is available in the country; and

(c) what is the mechanism for payment, apart from credit card?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The facility of booking rail ticket through internet is available universally and can be availed by Master Card and Visa Credit Card holders. The facility of delivery of reserved tickets is, however, confined to the following cities, Delhi, New Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Chennai, Mumbai/Navi Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Pune. At present, for booking of tickets through internet, the mode of payment is through Credit Card only.

**Merger of Vizag Railway Division**

3248. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vizag Division could be merged with S.C. Railway Zone, Secunderabad; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is Waltair and not Vizag Division. At present it is with South Eastern Railway. It is to become part of East Coast Railway Zone *w.e.f.* 1.4.2003 which is being carved out of South Eastern Railway with 3 Divisions *i.e.* Khurda Road, Sambalpur and Waltair. The jurisdiction of East Coast Railway has been decided keeping in view the geographical contiguity of the Divisions, smooth movement of traffic, to provide better control and to improve efficiency. South Central Railway is already having 5 Division and *w.e.f.* 1.4.2003